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ORD 2952-67
15 May 1967

Mr. E. H. Knoche
Executive Director/NPIC

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Dear Hank:

Thank you for your note of 11 May. It arrived just as I was about to send you a note offering to work more closely with NPIC on what I believe to be a very difficult but important problem. I have talked with [redacted] at some length about providing additional assistance to NPIC and feel that we can provide some additional aid, particularly through [redacted]. Increased consultative help from ORD, however, would not be a substitute for a full-time psychophysicist on the NPIC staff to do the technical monitoring of the [redacted] human factors and other contracts. I have asked our people to recruit actively against your requirement to see if we can find someone with not only strong technical background but with experience in contract monitoring.

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If we are to provide more assistance to you, it will be necessary for us to have more frequent access to technical data from your contractor, attend their briefings as appropriate, and meet with your R&D people more frequently although not on a formal committee basis.

I would like to stress again the importance of carrying out Task #1 as proposed in the follow on in order to establish some performance criteria for photointerpreters. Any attempt to improve their performance without these criteria is subject to technical as well as political question. I learned that the hard way. I also believe that many of the studies proposed by [redacted] can and should be done within the NPIC facility. This would effect some cost savings but more importantly would make the results more relevant. In general, the other tasks proposed seem to be reasonable if carefully designed with the possible exception of further studies on visual mechanisms. It is our view that barring

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any major eye pathology, variations in ocular mechanisms probably are of little significance in PI performance. It is more likely that significant changes in performance will come from a better understanding of perception, an area which we are beginning to investigate actively. We should make you more aware of what our plans are in this area.

You might wish to discuss these comments with your R&D people. If you feel we can give you greater assistance in this program, I would be happy to discuss the ways and means of accomplishing this without interfering with your program.

Best regards,

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